



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 24, 2011

Contact:

Christy L. Simmons
Manager of Public Relations
(919) 865-3050 (office)
(919) 906-4798 (mobile)
csimmons@foodbankcenc.org

FOOD BANK PREPARES SERVICE AREA FOR HURRICANE IRENE

RALEIGH –The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina responds daily to the hunger crisis in its 34-county service area distributing food and non-food essentials to more than 500,000 people at risk of hunger daily in its 34-county service area. The Food Bank also acts as a first responder during times of a natural disaster reacting immediately to serve victims of tornadoes, hurricanes and floods throughout central and eastern North Carolina. The organization began on Monday to prepare for a possible landfall by Hurricane Irene later this week.

The Food Bank has taken inventory of the following types of items in each of its six warehouses in Durham, Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, Sandhills (Southern Pines) and Wilmington:

- Disaster Relief Kits
- Retail size canned goods from salvage/food drive etc...
- Cereal/granola/energy bars
- Fruit snacks
- Water
- Ensure/Boost type drinks
- Pedialyte
- Paper goods, hygiene products, cleaning products, household goods

-more-

“We are preparing to provide assistance and basic supplies such as food, water, hygiene and paper products to those who might be affected by Hurricane Irene,” said Peter Werbicki, President and CEO of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC. “We have already been in communication with North Carolina Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NCVOAD) and other disaster response teams.”

In the event Hurricane Irene does not affect the Food Bank’s service area, the organization will be prepared to assist other food banks in the state.

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina has a long history of responding to natural disasters. With the devastation of the 2005 hurricane season, the Food Bank sent nine truckloads of relief food and essentials to help the victims of the hurricanes in the Gulf Coast. The Food Bank distributed over 233,000 pounds of food to that area. In April 2011, the organization distributed nearly 500,000 pounds of disaster relief product to partner agencies affected by the tornadoes in the hardest hit counties in its 34-county service area.

For updates on Food Bank preparation and to be a part of disaster relief in the 34 counties served by the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, go to www.foodbankcenc.org.

About the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is a nonprofit organization that has provided food for people at risk of hunger in 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina for 30 years. The Food Bank serves a network of more than 800 partner agencies such as soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and programs for children and adults through warehouses in Durham, Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, the Sandhills (Southern Pines) and Wilmington. In fiscal year 2009-2010, the Food Bank distributed more than 42.5 million pounds of food and non-food essentials through these agencies. Sadly, hunger remains a serious problem in central and eastern North Carolina. In these counties, more than 500,000 struggle each day to provide enough food for their families. www.foodbankcenc.org.

###